

A
PRACTICAL TREATISE

ON

5

F E V E R,

CONTRASTING

A TONIC TREATMENT

WITH THE

ANTIPHLOGISTIC,

IN WHICH THE

SUPERIORITY OF THE FORMER IS ASCERTAINED;

By THOMAS PARKER,
SURGEON, AT WOBURN.

LONDON:

PRINTED FOR J. JOHNSON, ST. PAUL'S CHURCH-YARD.

1796.

THE NEW YORK PUBLIC LIBRARY

ASTOR LENOX TILDEN FOUNDATION

125 WEST 4TH STREET

NEW YORK CITY

1900

THE NEW YORK PUBLIC LIBRARY

ASTOR LENOX TILDEN FOUNDATION

1900

THE NEW YORK PUBLIC LIBRARY

1900

PREFACE.

THAT every member of society, be his situation in life high or low, public, or obscure, is morally obliged to exert himself for the comfort and benefit of the whole, disregarding all mean and selfish views, is a position, the justness of which I hope no one will question.

The study of diseases confessedly opens a wide field for the exercise of that benevolent principle inherent in the mind of man, and most ornamental of his nature. This, and perhaps other causes, have impelled some of the ablest men (in medicine at least) that this nation ever produced, to devote their time to form, and afterwards to disseminate, their opinions and observations. Among those who have, in my opinion, so beneficially employed their time, few, if any, were ever better qualified to write on diseases than the present Dr. George Fordyce, possessing a most capacious

and discriminating understanding, and a judgment matured by a long life of observation.

After this tribute of just respect to his abilities, which I feel a pleasure in paying, it may be thought not a little singular, that I should differ from him in practice.

I am in the habit of thinking and observing for myself; and though I revere the abilities of other men, yet I cannot accede to any man an opinion taken up after patient inquiry, and where prejudice has had no share.

Had I thought of practice in Fever exactly as the respectable author just mentioned

mentioned does, it would have superseded the necessity of this publication.

In the perusal of these imperfect sheets allowances will doubtless be made for that zeal with which a man glows, when he is under a persuasion that he is rendering any service to society.

PRACTICAL TREATISE, &c.

IT would be matter of surprize, if Fever, which has been known as long as any affection incident to our constitutions, had not excited the attention of men of ability to the investigation of its immediate cause, with a view of affording a rational ground of practice.

Whether it be, that the ground assumed is a wrong one, or that we have not intellectual powers adequate to the task of tracing Fever to its origin, I shall not presume to determine. Thus

B

much

much is certain, that if we grant the present theory of Fever, as produced by Dr. Cullen, to be right, it is not a little singular that the treatment which necessarily springs from his theory should not be more efficacious than by practice it is found to be.

Our reason, therefore, leads us to infer, either that the view which he has taken of the subject is a wrong one, or that if the theory be right, the practice and theory do not harmonize.

It may happen that professors, for they are not infallible, are not always clinical physicians ; it may happen that this great nosologist is mistaken throughout, at least in points most necessary to be known ; and these are neglected, because obvious and easy of comprehension : while things abstruse, inexplicable, and of comparatively little
I
import-

importance in point of utility, have engrossed his attention.

Observation teaches us, that this is no unfrequent error among men who affect a superiority of knowledge: whether this be really the case in the present instance, or whether some other cause can be assigned, I leave for others to decide.

From analogy then, one would expect, that what is of vast importance to be known in diseases in a practical point of view should not be very difficult of attainment; such knowledge, for example, as is sufficient for the removal of diseases, or where this is impracticable, for the palliation of them; and this position, if not strictly just, is not far from being so. This is exactly what the reason of a thinking man, upon a full and calm survey of things, would natu-

rally expect, particularly when he takes into consideration the perfect goodness of Providence.

The science of medicine is founded on observation and experiment: observation naturally impels to experiment in an art like physic; and experiment, while under the closest and severest observation, can never be productive of harm, and may be of a variety of good. This only certain path to practical knowledge has been comparatively little trodden, because it requires a strong and patient application of the mind.

Besides, much as has been done in medicine, and much it must be confessed has been, for the relief of morbid nature; yet, even in its present and improved state, there are many diseases which do not admit of remedy. Perhaps I am, or shall be thought to be,
greatly

greatly too sanguine in my expectations, if I should suggest, that were this mode of proceeding generally pursued, it is probable that more remedies might be discovered; that is, if observation and experiment went hand in hand. Whether this reasoning be important or trivial, still if a practice in any disease have been long tried, and is at last found inefficient, it is surely a justifiable measure to vary or even wholly to change it. Of course a practice which has been found beneficial, whether sanctioned by time or not, should, for the good which may attend it, be immediately made known.

It may be necessary to observe, that what I have ventured to recommend so strenuously in this Treatise to others, I have myself first experienced the good effects of in a great variety of cases. I need not here insist how large a portion

of our time must be given, or how much fatigue and anxiety both of body and mind must be born, before a competent, rational, and practical knowledge in Fevers can be attained. This depends so much upon attention, so much upon a fondness for observation, and upon a desire of attaining to something like perfection in medical knowledge, that he who possesses not these, will read and practise to very little purpose.

I am afraid that this publication is in many respects imperfect. Whatever defects I shall myself discover, or what others may have the goodness to do for me, I shall make it my care to correct, provided they come from men competent to advise.

The first principle that I set out with is this—that Fever is a disease of greater simplicity,

plicity, in my opinion, than has been generally taught ; for this reason its modifications, which are comparatively few, do not alter the essence, as it were, of Fever. We may deduce from this, (if the opinion be well founded) that one and the same practice, with at least but little variation, is applicable in all cases ; and here my observation and practice prompt me to be confident as to the validity of the position : I shall not therefore divide and subdivide Fever, but state it simply Fever.

*APPEARANCES WHICH TAKE PLACE IN
FEVER.*

A person affected with Fever has more or less of rigor, has always a lassitude, and sometimes sudden and great prostration of strength, especially if the Fever

be an alarming one ; to these succeed loss of appetite, quickness of pulse, more or less ; an increase of heat on the body ; perspiration, more or less interrupted ; the tongue white, and, in bad cases, brown and dry, or dry and of a crimson colour. If the Fever do not cease in a great measure in the course of a week, and often in a much shorter time, there commonly supervenes pain in the head, watchfulness, subsultus tendinum, and delirium.

Sickness I have not enumerated among the symptoms, because it is not a general one ; something will be said of it hereafter, and likewise of the urine and the state of the bowels.

The symptoms which almost immediately take place in Fever might be classed as symptoms of the first order, or such as are not attended with much danger ;

ger ; those which supervene in many or few days might be classed as a second order, or supervening symptoms, and these are always attended with great danger.

But as in some Fevers the order is in a manner inverted, that is, the bad symptoms commencing almost immediately upon the attack, instead of coming on progressively, so in others the order is commonly more or less disturbed ; for which reason I am in a manner under the necessity of giving each symptom a distinct consideration ; and this I shall do, in the order in which I have placed them in the description of Fever.

RIGOR.

A sense of chillness, sometimes amounting to a shivering fit, is the first symptom

tom that occurs in Fever; the danger is not unfrequently proportionate to the greater or less degree of severity of rigor; for instance, when the rigor is very severe in continued Fever, there is usually much danger; though to this there are so many exceptions, that it will not form a rule by which we may venture a prognosis. Rigor is extremely difficult of explanation: I cannot satisfy myself whether it proceed directly from some new action on the vessels upon the surface similar to what is produced by a great degree of cold, or whether it be sympathetic of some organ, as the stomach or brain. Both sickness and fear produce it; so likewise do large suppurations. In continued Fevers the rigor recurs commonly several times for the first day or two. As I cannot inform myself clearly and satisfactorily as
to

to the real cause of rigor in Fever, and as it would probably answer no useful purpose if I could do so, I shall relinquish the inquiry.

If a practitioner were consulted at the time that the rigor was present, he could not advise any mode of treatment except such as is necessary in Fever.

PROSTRATION OF STRENGTH.

The loss of strength in Fever evinces pretty accurately the degree of danger ; in slight Fevers it is little more than lassitude ; in severe Fevers, particularly such as are called putrid, the debility is both vast and immediate. This symptom throws more light (in my judgment at least) on the nature of Fever, and points out more clearly and forcibly the practice that should be pursued, than any other

other symptom which presents itself. It seems to me impossible that the weakness, so suddenly induced in Fever, can be any other way explained, than by supposing that there is produced some change in the state of the brain very different from what takes place in health. As the subject in question is very important, and not without considerable difficulty, I shall here offer my sentiments with great diffidence. I am then, from observations almost out of number which I have made in these cases, but more especially from the practice which is found with me to be beyond all comparison the most efficacious, in a manner convinced that the idea is just; and this altered condition, I apprehend, is a diminished energy of it; and in almost every case there is superadded a farther morbid condition, which no term so well

well expreffes what I would be understood to mean as irritability, or irregular excitement, with a diminution of power in this organ.

LOSS OF APPETITE.

Loss of appetite is a fymptom infeparable, in a manner, from Fever; what produces this averfion from food I cannot tell, except it be that the ftomach is incapable of digefting it: probably as there is but little faliva fecreted, the defire is directed to liquids, which are always very grateful in Fever. As Fever is a moft exhausting difeafe, care muft be taken that the liquids be fuch as fhall afford nourifhment: of this more will be faid in its proper place.

QUICK-

QUICKNESS OF PULSE.

The state of the pulse in Fevers is so various, that it is next to an impossibility to describe it with any precision; in Hectic Fever, on the contrary, it is subject to no variation, but is in every patient nearly the same. In continued Fever it exceeds almost universally the natural standard: I have counted it in many bad cases, and always found it beyond 90, often 110, and 120. Though considerable dependance is to be placed upon the pulse, yet not on the pulse considered singly, but in conjunction with all the other symptoms; especially such as I have called the second order, or those that are accompanied with danger. If with the presence of these there be a pulse of 110 or more, the case is replete with

with danger, yet not to be despaired of; as I dare say most mens experience have convinced them, and which may be seen in some of the annexed cases. A tremulous pulse, and an intermitting one, if they be quick also, are the worst that I am acquainted with, admitting that the pulse was regular before the attack. A quick and feeble pulse, as it indicates great irritability in the system, is also an alarming one:—in a word, the more a pulse approaches to an healthy one, generally speaking, the more secure is our patient; and the farther it deviates from it, the less secure. It is not often that a full pulse is met with in Fevers in the present day; and when it is, it often hastily changes to some of the unpleasant ones mentioned above. It will be remembered that I am speaking of the pulse of adults: children often recover
when

when the pulse is so quick as not to allow of numbering ; very little strefs, therefore, can be laid on the pulse of children.

*INCREASE OF HEAT; INTERRUPTION OF,
AND PRETERNATURAL INCREASE OF,
PERSPIRATION.*

Increase of heat is a natural effect of increase of action in the heart and arteries ; it depends too, in some measure, upon an obstructed state of the insensible perspiration ; for when this is restored, the heat, though not removed, is commonly moderated. I believe it is less in the power of art to restore perspiration than is usually imagined ; and even when effected, it is not often productive of good, unless it produce that gentle moisture of the skin which is perceived in. health. A preternatural or profuse perspiration is an exceedingly alarming symptom,

symptom, and often gives an unfavourable termination to the disease, instead of bringing about what has been fallaciously looked upon as a favourable change, or a crisis, as it is called. Too much time, I am fully persuaded, has been spent about the state of the skin; for it seems that almost all the medicines employed in Fevers are directed with this view: hence the almost endless variety of antimonial preparations: hence the *Spiritus Mindereri*, and a variety of others.

THE STATE OF THE TONGUE IN FEVERS.

In the early stage of Fever the tongue is seldom parched, except in very alarming ones, such as systematic writers call putrid, and not often even in these: when it occurs, it is a most formidable symptom. The tongue, in the beginning

C

of

of Fever, is for the most part white ; in some cases, particularly in full habits, it is remarkably so ; not unlike what takes place in a mercurial ptyalism ; and such cases I have often seen to terminate unfavourably. Where the tongue is so extremely white as has been just stated, the action of the arteries is very strong and quick, the breathing is generally very laborious, and the countenance commonly very much flushed. These cases very often, in a very few days, assume a contrary aspect, changing from an appearance, commonly but erroneously thought inflammatory, to the greatest debility, assuming the characters of what is called Typhus by nosologists, and what I have simply called bad or dangerous Fever.

When the tongue varies much from what it is in health, the secretion varies
also ;

also; but little saliva is secreted from the glands, and what is secreted is very tenacious; it is poured forth in this state, or it is rendered so by evaporation, as is very strikingly exhibited by the teeth, which are covered as it were with an inspissated mucus.

When the tongue is dry, and feels to the finger like a dry sponge, it will be found, upon examining the mouth, that the fauces are in the same state of dryness; whence proceeds the thirst, or desire to have supplied what is by disease rendered greatly deficient.

With this state of the tongue it is not unusual to meet with aphthæ, which persons who have once seen, will not easily forget; it is necessary, I think, that they be kept very clean, by syringing, or gargling. I know of no gargle better than a decoction of figs and pearl barley,

ley, with a little contrayerva root and vinegar; but as both the dryness of the tongue and the aphthæ arise in consequence of the Fever, it is very evident what object should be principally kept in view; the aphthæ will disappear, and the secretion in the mouth will be restored upon the removal of the Fever.

UNEASINESS WITHIN THE HEAD.

Fever, I believe, never takes place without producing an uneasiness within the head, not always amounting to pain; and when it is pain instead of uneasiness, it is sometimes dull and oppressive, at other times acute and throbbing. If general bleeding should ever be prescribed in simple Fever, one would expect that it was indicated in cases where the pain was acute. I have often practised

tified it, from an idea that it was indicated, and because it has been recommended by high authorities ; and, after a fair trial of it, I am driven to confess, that the lancet has produced no manifestly good effects in my hands ; and I am much deceived if it have not been often hurtful, as will be seen in some of the subjoined cases. Topical bleeding is a less exceptionable practice ; I have tried it repeatedly from my own inclination, and the advice of others. In some cases I thought it afforded a little relief ; in others, and very many of them, I am clear that it was more pernicious than useful. If the disease depended upon, or even if it were connected with, an inflammation of the brain or its membranes, one would reasonably expect some benefit ; though, in this case, opening the temporal artery,

and suffering it to bleed freely, would be both a more judicious and a more rational practice, which I reckon is what no thinking practitioner would advise. If I be right in my opinion, that in Fevers the brain has not its vessels turgid, then I may assert, that this practice is taken up too hastily. That the vessels in the brain are, as they are in every part of the system, too active, admits not of a doubt; but perhaps this increase of action may be something like irritability, by which we mean an increase of action with a loss of strength: if so, reason instructs us what step to take; that we give tone to the system, and thereby reduce the irritated vessels to their natural and healthy action, and reproduce that general harmony which the economy loses in Fever. Practice, mine at least, confirms the soundness of
such

such reasoning ; there is, therefore, no distinct treatment necessary for this single symptom of uneasiness within the head ; it is evidently produced by Fever, and will cease when that does. The topical bleeding which I have used has been that of leeches to the temples, or behind the ears. In the cases subjoined, an instance or two of this practice will be found.

WATCHFULNESS AND ANXIETY.

The pain just treated of is generally productive of these distressing symptoms, and these again of delirium ; so much so, that when one is present, we may very reasonably expect the other, and are called upon to exert our abilities to the utmost, with a view to prevent such consequences. Many medicines and applications have been recommended, in order to remove watchfulness, or an inabi-

lity to sleep. Fomenting the lower extremities is a practice generally recommended ; and it is greatly preferable to the pediluvium, because in this last method the patient must be taken out of bed : it must, however, be considered as a very precarious mean of procuring rest ; though thus much at least is in its favour, that it cannot produce any harm.

Hoffmann's Mineral Anodyne Liquor, as it is called, and the sedative salt of borax, have been advised with the same intentions ; but I believe that no practitioner, who has tried them, will rely much upon either of them.

Opium, it is well known, will procure sleep, and has therefore had its abettors even in Fever ; and none are more warm in its commendation than Dr. Brown. I am not here writing
against

against Dr. Brown, or any other man ; what I shall assert is purely the result of practice ; which justifies me in declaring, that I have seen much mischief produced by the use of it : I have given it a fair trial ; and I am, in my own mind, so thoroughly convinced of its pernicious tendency, that I am persuaded I shall never try it again as a remedy in Fever. It is true, if in Fever I were to give a medicine, the operation of which on the bowels I could not restrain without opium, I should be obliged from necessity to give it ; and this alone would induce me to do so. The sleep, which I have procured to my patients from the use of opium in Fevers, has been always unrefreshing ; has confused the head, and increased the pain in it ; and has left them more debilitated, more heated, and more thirsty, than before its administration.

tion. The application of blisters is sometimes recommended in watchfulness. It may well be expected, by all thinking persons, that they should defeat the very end they were designed to answer. I have used them; and, to say no worse, I am so convinced of their inutility, that I shall never use them again. They must be pernicious when used generally and indiscriminately: and even when applied to the temples and behind the ears, and more especially when to the whole of the head, where they should be applied, if at all, they are seldom beneficial, and generally very hurtful.

This symptom (watchfulness) like all others depending upon Fever, though a very bad and alarming one, is to be removed only by removing the Fever which produced it. To direct our attention, therefore, to this symptom, so

as

as to make us forgetful or inattentive to the cause of it, argues an ignorance of the whole,

SUBSULTUS TENDINUM.

Subsultus Tendinum, for the most part, is followed by Delirium ; for which reason I intended to have placed them under one and the same head ; but as Delirium does not necessarily follow, and as I have met with cases where it has not, I shall consider them separately.

I have given it as my opinion, that the sudden diminution of the powers of the body in Fever depend upon a diminished energy of the brain : besides which, there is present, I think, some other morbid condition, for which I have no term that so well expresses my meaning

ing as irritability, of which I have before given an explanation. Whether this irritability spring as it were out of the weakened state of the brain, or whether it be superadded, is a question extremely difficult to determine. That the functions of the brain are very much impaired, is demonstrable. No person in a Fever, that is serious in its nature, is in full possession of his mental or corporal powers ; he is incapable of arranging his ideas nicely, or of supporting his body in an erect posture for any time : besides which, the functions of the brain are disturbed, producing incongruous conversation, and wrong bodily stimuli or sensations ; and this is the irritability which has been urged before. Sleep, which refreshes and invigorates this organ, and the whole machine, in a state of health, forsakes him altogether who is ill of a Fever ;

or if he should chance to fall into a sleep while in this morbid state, instead of rest that is quiet and sweet, he will have such as is exceedingly disturbed and tumultuous. Such an irritated and fatigued state of this most wonderful and beautiful organ, at length unfits it for the purposes of life ; but before this event happens, a higher state of disturbance comes on, which is Delirium ; where the will, and of consequence whatever is under the influence of it, is lost, both bodily and mentally.

Yet from this state, hopeless as it generally is, persons have sometimes recovered ; which proves that the brain has not undergone any material alteration of structure, if any.

The same means are to be employed for the relief of Subfultus Tendinum as for Fever ; only that, as the symptom is a
very

very dangerous one, the practice must be both strong and steady.

Subfultus Tendinum discovers itself first among the flexor tendons of the wrist, on feeling the pulse: and in order to be more certain whether it be present or not, the fingers should be carried over the tendons. I have just attempted to explain its cause in the best manner of which I am capable.

DELIRIUM.

As I have already more than touched upon this truly alarming symptom, I shall have but little to observe in this place.

When a patient is insensible, but little can be done for his relief, for medicines are generally refused; and I am not acquainted with any application from which
any

any good can be derived. I have not delivered my sentiments favourably on blisters, and I can urge no more in favour of sinapisms to the feet. I have tried them frequently, but never saw the least good from them. If there should be intervals of sense, or if in the suspension of the senses we can get the patient to take medicine, we must then give such as from practice we have found to be most efficacious in Fevers. Since so little can be done in Delirium, and since it is a state of such imminent danger, the object, which every thinking man will have in view, is to prevent it, if possible, by a timely and diligent attention to the Fever.

ON THE CAUSES OF FEVER.

Exposure to cold has been considered as a cause of Fever; tho' it is so rarely I believe,

lieve, unless the constitution is in such a state as to suffer from its action ; as, after long abstinence, or fatigue, and more especially if accompanied by any of the depressing passions, as fear, sorrow, or great anxiety. I believe these to dispose strongly to Fever. Another cause of Fever, and that of the most dangerous kind, is a crowded and uncleanly lodging, generating unwholesome effluvia ; especially if the diet be at the same time such as affords but little nourishment. This is a frequent cause of Fever among the poor. Another, and the last which I shall take notice of, is exposure to a person ill of an infectious Fever. Whether the person so exposed shall suffer by the contagion, depends greatly upon the state of his mind and body; as was observed above.

All the advantage that we gain by a
know-

knowledge of the causes, is to avoid, as far as reason permits, exposing ourselves to the action of them, or, if we must from necessity be subjected to them, to put the body in a condition which renders it but little susceptible of their action. With respect to the treatment, that will not be influenced by the cause simply, but merely as the symptoms are more or less alarming.

ON THE THEORY OF FEVER.

I have been, though concise, as explicit on this part of my subject as my knowledge of it would permit me to be. My opinion, which is delivered under the heads of Prostration of Strength, and Subfultus Tendinum, is the result of close attention to a vast number of cases; and the good effects of a prac-

D

tice

tice corresponding with the theory confirms, in my mind, its justness.

As the theory directs the practice, it is of importance that we have a clear and just conception of it. When this is the case, both are consistent, and there is then good reason to hope that the disease may be conquered. However, farther observation is still wanting to render the knowledge of Fever more perfect; and after having laboured long in the search, there will remain some things beyond the reach of our capacities.

*ON THE REMEDIES HITHERTO EMPLOYED
IN FEVER.*

As the practice adopted in Fevers has for many years been almost uniformly the same, the conviction must have been either that the established practice was
a sound

a found one, or that, if faulty, a better could not be discovered.

When I began the treatment of Fever, I adopted the reducing, or what is called the antiphlogistic plan ; and I did so, because it was recommended by some of the first authorities in medicine. Although upon a comparison I found that I did not lose more patients than others did, yet I lost many. This necessarily made me dissatisfied with my practice, and desirous of finding out a better, if I could by any means in my power do so ; and this better practice I shall presently mention.

After consulting many authors upon the subject, and, I am sorry to observe, but to little purpose, I at length read Dr. James, who, I was very confident, from his manner of writing, had seen the disease very often. I was pleased to meet with a physician who appeared to

write purely from a practice which seemed to proceed from much thinking. I immediately availed myself of his treatment. Upon the whole, I found it the best I had then tried ; his Antimonial Powder appeared to me a milder and more efficacious preparation than any which I had employed before. However, after using ounces of it, I found, that, though it was a valuable preparation, he had most surprisingly over-rated its powers in Fever, and concealed its failures, which is disingenuous, discreditable, and unmanly. I will venture too to affirm, that Dr. James never succeeded with the powder in the manner that he professes to have done ; if so, why did it not succeed with me in similar cases, and dosed in like manner, and when all his other directions, as to regimen and the like, were strictly observed ?

served? Many of the cases which he adduces were very alarming ones; and, from his testimony, they were speedily recovered by the use of his powder alone, or joined with a few grains of rhubarb: I ask, who that has seen much of practice can credit this?

If it be yet said, that Dr. James was as successful in Fever as he declares himself to have been, it must be granted me, that he employed a practice essentially different from that which he recommends, and which he has not disclosed. As his practice (as it stands in his book) was strictly antiphlogistic, and as such equal to any, I shall have no occasion to enlarge much on that kind of treatment. Medicines, in some respects directed with the same view as the antimonial powder of Dr. James, are aqua ammonia acetata, and the saline draughts, pulvis ipe-

cacuanhæ in small doses, and antimonium tartarifatum. The various antimonial preparations and neutral salts have also been at different times employed, and some of them, particularly the tartarified antimony, very forcibly recommended. For my own part, after having tried them all, I must confess, that I have no high opinion of any of them in original Fever. The volatile and vegetable alkali, saturated with lemon-juice, are the best, I think, among them. The tartarified antimony, if administered at all, should be given in very small doses, not in nauseating ones, as has been often advised; for not any thing does more immediately, or more permanently, weaken the patient. If antimony, or any other medicine, could be so introduced into the habit as to produce a healthy moisture upon the skin, without increasing the debility, it would

be a great acquisition, for reasons hereafter to be assigned; but who can say that with antimonials he can at pleasure effect this? instead of which they have often no effect whatever upon the skin, although diluents be given with them in abundance; and they often have a very pernicious effect, producing sickness and diarrhoea, disordering the constitution more than it was before disordered, without answering one good purpose, and certainly one very bad one, which is that of sinking the patient. To this I have been several times a witness. It may be said, that, if opium were combined in small doses with the antimonial medicine, this effect might be prevented; but to this it may be answered, that opium should not be given in Fevers, if it be possible to avoid it. If the practitioner's object be to promote

a gentle diaphoresis, he will act more wisely in giving the volatile alkali saturated with lemon-juice. With this medicine no mischief can be produced, unless that time is lost in the use of it which should have been employed in giving efficacious medicines, to be noticed hereafter.

If the patient's stomach, upon the attack of Fever, be loaded with indigestible food, or much bile regurgitated, it is better that he should take an emetic at once, than be teased with antimonials; and if it be thought right to unload his bowels, it will be easy to effect it with a dose of rhubarb; taking care, after this, not to disturb them in the more advanced state of the Fever with aperient medicines; but rather, if the patient have not an evacuation every day, or every other day at farthest, to procure one with a gentle enema;

enema; and the more mild the enema, the better.

As sickness is a very equivocal symptom, often arising in bad fevers I suspect from sympathy with the brain, we must take care not to be very busy with emetics; and if sickness be produced when the Fever has been of some continuance, without being able to explain it, from any thing which the patient has taken into his stomach, or otherwise, there is reason to fear that the case is as above. I have seen this more than once, and had strong reason to believe that the suspicion was right.

I shall enlarge no more on this practice, but proceed to what alone appears to me deserving of any confidence, the Cinchona, or Cortex Peruvianus, and Red Port.

ON THE USE OF CINCHONA AND WINE IN

FEVER.

When I first began the use of the Cinchona, I had my doubts as to the propriety of employing it. I well knew that it protracted the hot stage of intermittents when given in it, and that in hectic fever it was extremely hurtful. Yet this kind of reasoning did not absolutely convince me, that it might not be employed with advantage in continued fevers, particularly where there was considerable debility. A circumstance happened where I had a good opportunity of putting it to the test. At a village near Woburn (Fenny Stratford) a poor woman was ill with a low Fever, in which the skin was very hot, the pulse quick, the tongue very much parched, her urine high coloured, and she was

at

at times very delirious. This poor woman at length recovered, under the use of antimonial and saline medicines. Soon after one of her daughters fell ill, and her husband also, both of whom died in about 48 hours from the attack, under the same treatment as the mother. Another son and daughter fell ill of the same Fever, and likewise a poor family near to them, in which were ill the mother and six children. Here I changed, for the first time, my practice, from antimonials and saline medicines to Cinchona and Wine. Although most of these were very delirious, notwithstanding that all of them had remarkably threatening symptoms, yet not one of them died.

Soon after the nurse and two other paupers in the village were sick of the same Fever, and both of them recovered. The father of the six children afterwards
fell

fell ill ; he was a very irregular liver, and I was not sent for till the case was apparently a lost one ; he died soon after I saw him. All of these patients took plentifully of Cinchona and Red Port ; the former was given in substance.

I had now in a manner made up my mind, as to the superior efficacy of Cinchona and Wine in bad Fevers ; since which I have tried them together in a great number of cases, perhaps in more than would be readily credited ; and I am confirmed in my opinion of the superiority that Cinchona and Port possess over every other remedy hitherto prescribed.

*SOME DIRECTIONS TO BE OBSERVED IN THE
MANAGEMENT OF CINCHONA AND WINE
IN FEVERS, AND THEIR OPERATION.*

I have long seen that the prostration of strength in Fever, and the watchfulness,

fulness, were very formidable symptoms ; and upon turning the subject over in my thoughts almost times out of number, it always appeared to me, that these symptoms took their rise from some morbid condition of the brain, which I have before endeavoured to explain. From a close and frequent investigation of Fever, I was led to think, that inflammation had no share in producing these symptoms ; because were that allowed, the lancet would quickly relieve the patient, which with me it has never in any degree done, and often done mischief by increasing the debility.

On the other hand, stimulants—as camphor, the volatile salts, with musk and serpentaria, are very inefficacious medicines, to say no worse of them. With me at least they have been invariably so.

A medicine is wanting which can give powers to the constitution ; powers which shall be permanent. In intermittents Cinchona has this effect in a remarkable degree, warding off the Fever perhaps by giving strength to the body ; but in intermittents there is for a time an entire cessation of Fever ; and then the Cinchona, it is well known, may be administered with safety, and in abundance. In continued Fever this is not the case ; and he who waits for what is called remission, in which state Cinchona has been recommended, will be obliged entirely to withhold it. It is true that in continued Fevers the pulse is not so frequent at some times as at others ; for example, if the pulse should beat 110 in the minute at night ; it will the next morning probably beat not more than 100, or 102 ; but no person who knows
any

any thing of practice will call this a remission. He, then, who wishes to give the Cinchona in continued Fevers, must not regard these worse than trifling distinctions. On the contrary, he must give it with boldness and with firmness, and that too in proportion to the quickness of pulse, and to the other symptoms of danger.

If from fear, or from a persuasion that it will be injurious while the pulse is so frequent, he shall forbear to give it, he will find to his sorrow that he has not only lost time, but that every hour brings more formidable symptoms before him.

The annexed cases will in some measure show not the advantage only, but the necessity of giving both the Cinchona and wine in large doses, and of repeating them frequently.

The state of the stomach is often so
irritable,

irritable, that it will not bear the Cinchona in substance; of this I have seen many instances; this is a very unfavourable circumstance, inasmuch as the remedy must be given in small, and therefore often, in insufficient doses. When this is the case, the decoction must be given; and so unsettled is the stomach sometimes, that it is necessary to give with it pure kali, saturated with lemon-juice. It is evident, that, in order that the medicine may produce any good here, it should be repeated at short intervals, every second hour for example; and as the stomach recovers its tone, the decoction may be made stronger. I have often given the vitriolic acid with Cinchona, and in some cases I have thought the stomach received it better; but my principal reason was to increase the tonic powers of the Cinchona.

The

The intestines do not always receive the Cinchona well: it now and then renders them lax. This is a very distressing effect, because the medicine is carried off hastily, and because it is difficult, when this effect takes place, to retain it there for a sufficient time, to operate with advantage.

I have generally found, that some tincture of cinnamon and catechu have prevented this. I have never been obliged to try opium with this view; though I would do so, much as I dislike it in Fever, rather than withdraw the Cinchona. A good way of giving the Cinchona is to mix it with the arabic emulsion of the old dispensatory; this renders the medicine more palatable, and prevents in a great measure the operation I am complaining of. Red port, if it be old and sound, gives tone to the

E

bowels,

bowels, and is moreover a most powerful and most valuable remedy in Fever; so much so, that in a bad Fever I had rather have it for my practice, than all the medicines that we are yet acquainted with, without it. I have, in many cases of Fever, where the debility was considerable, tried it alone, and it has succeeded very well; in other cases I found it ineffectual by itself, but it proved effectual when the Cinchona was given with it.

The best way of giving port is in small quantities, and repeating it often. This must be regulated by the degree of debility, dejection of countenance, and watchfulness, and by the patient's habits when in health. A person who has drunk too freely of wine in health, requires abundance in sickness; and after all, such a person is, for obvious reasons,

sons, exposed to more than common danger in Fever. I generally give my patients wine at stated times, and with as much punctuality as I would medicine: half a wine-glassful, for example, every half hour, hour, or second hour, or if circumstances require it, a wine-glassful at the same times.

I never knew it in any case, which has often surprised me, produce any thing like ebriety; it refreshes the patient, and for the most part composes him; it renders, like the Cinchona, the pulse less frequent and more steady, and brings every thing, as it were, back to its natural action.

In my zeal, it is possible I may overrate the value of this treatment: me, I confess, it strikes, as one of the greatest acquisitions to medical practice that I am acquainted with; and with this impres-

sion it is no wonder that I should express myself in terms not quite moderate.

I pretend not to say, efficacious as it is, that it is a remedy in all cases of Fever. This would be to deceive greatly; and no man who has seen much of practice, and of the failure which sometimes attends our best remedies in other diseases, would give me credit.

The regimen, I think, should be nutritious. As Fever is a very exhausting disease, this appears to me indispensably necessary. The patient may drink of barley water, which should not be thin, and of good broth, of milk porridge, if milk previously to the Fever agreed with the patient; to which may be added, panada, tapioca, or sago; though it is very seldom that patients will be prevailed upon to take much of either of them; and provided wine can be taken

in sufficient quantity, they may be dispensed with.

I intimated that a moisture upon the skin is desirable, and chiefly because in this state the Cinchona universally agrees, and is always beneficial; but since it is little in our power to bring this about, and since in bad Fevers not an hour should be trifled away, we must proceed to the use of it, even though the skin should be dry and hot. An example of this is given in the annexed cases; and it is a practice which I never hesitate to adopt where danger is present. It may be thought needless, and I wish it were, to observe that great care be taken that the Cinchona and wine be the best that can be procured.

I do not know that I have any farther observations to make, except that the patient should be kept very quiet, in

order to dispose him to sleep, and that for this reason the room should be rather dark: he should be kept very clean; and if the weather be at all damp or cold, there should be a fire in his room; and, above all, the practitioner should visit his patient often, not only to watch his symptoms, but to see that the nurse executes her part well.

I shall now proceed to the cases.

I must beg leave to suppress some of the names in the following cases, lest I should give offence: my reader, however, may depend upon the fidelity with which they are delivered.

CASE I.

Mr. W—— of Woburn, a healthy young man, upon his return from London to this place, was affected with sickness,

ness, with uneasiness in his bowels, together with prostration of strength, though to no great degree : with these symptoms he complained also of great thirst and restlessness—his tongue white, but not dry, and his pulse a hundred in the minute, and rather full than feeble—his head uneasy, but not painful—skin hot and dry.

He took an emetic in the beginning, which operated well ; and his treatment afterwards consisted of antimonial medicines and neutral salts, occasionally with rhubarb. His diet was nourishing, and perfectly simple, consisting of panada, milk porridge, and barley water. His head continued perfectly clear, and his skin moist, his pulse much as at first, not diminishing in frequency ; he slept better ; his skin became moist ; and, the pulse apart, he seemed to be going on

very well. On the 27th of August, 1790, (which was thirteen days from the time when first I saw him) a hæmorrhage from the bowels ensued, and to such an extent, that he died in two days after.

I leave the medical reader to make such comments as he shall judge right in the above case. Was a similar one to come under my care, I should immediately treat it with Cinchona and wine, probably combining with the Cinchona the vitriolic acid, as a mean of increasing its powers as a tonic.

CASE II.

Mr. A. M—, of Woburn, a young gentleman with a constitution which had never been injured by any irregularity, complained, when I first saw him, of great weariness, of considerable loss of strength,

strength, of pain within his head, a strong propensity to sickness, his pulse more than 100 in the minute, his countenance very much dejected, but his skin moist, though hot. His mind had been for some time anxiously employed, and he had sustained more bodily fatigue than he was equal to ; he had, for three or four days before I saw him, from what I could learn, the same symptoms, but in a less degree. He was bled for the pain in his head (which grew almost insupportable) both generally and topically : he took an emetic and an aperient medicine ; and the future part of his treatment consisted of the pulvis Jacobi, with saline mixture ; his regimen was light and simple. A physician was sent for, who was of opinion that the case was going on very well. At this time the action of the antimony was directed

to the bowels, having produced as many as three evacuations. The physician recommended perseverance in the same treatment; the medicine still continued to operate upon the bowels; but after a few hours it ceased. He was manifestly rendered weaker by these evacuations, without the least diminution of any one symptom; he became restless, watchful, and at length delirious, and in eight days from the time that I first saw him he died. This case, especially the reduction of strength which the evacuations contributed with the disease to produce, made a very strong impression on my mind, and gave me an unfavourable opinion of the antiphlogistic treatment,—if not altogether, at least indiscriminately used,—and led me to make it the almost constant subject of my thoughts.

CASE

CASE III.

Mr. ———, a young man, had been ill for some days before I saw him ; he had been, from the attack of his Fever, very sick, and had taken an emetic previously to my visiting him. He thought himself the worse for the emetic ; that his head was more painful, and the disposition to sickness as severe as before. From the pain in his head, and the sickness accompanying it, which at first struck me as being sympathetic, I was fearful that the brain was much affected : he was perfectly sensible, but watchful, and his pulse as quick as in Hætic Fever, and felt as that does, like a slender cord under the finger. I directed leeches to be applied every day to the head, to the number of six or eight. I did all that was

was then in my power to destroy the mischief which was going on upon the brain by the daily application of leeches, and a strict antiphlogistic treatment; notwithstanding which, he grew delirious. A physician was called in, who directed the temporal arteries to be opened, which was immediately performed; he bled freely from the operation, became very weak, and died in a few hours.

Was another case (and indeed some have, as will be seen) to occur to me like the present, I would not give an emetic, or bleed, or give antimonial saline medicines; but, on the contrary, I should begin immediately (without what are called preparatives) with the Cinchona and port wine, having already seen too much of the little good to be derived from the old treatment.

CASE IV.

Mr. ———, of Woburn, a young man of temperate habit, was for some time with a friend who had been ill with a Fever, and who died of it. The case was precisely as the last-mentioned one, and was treated nearly in the same manner; after long watchfulness, delirium came on, and the event was the same.

The following Cases have come under my notice since I changed my reasoning and treatment, and will be found to resemble the above in many of their symptoms, as is commonly the case in bad Fevers.

CASE I.

John Cook, a stout young man, had a smart cold fit, and was afterwards extremely

tremely hot, and his pulse excessively frequent: his face was very red, his tongue very much parched, his skin very dry; his head was very uneasy, he was unable to sleep, his stomach and bowels not disordered, his urine of a deep colour. Although a strong young man, and with a full pulse, I determined not to bleed him, lest I should injure him by a reduction of his strength, which I knew from practice was not easily restored. I gave him immediately half a drachm of Cinchona for a dose, in the almond emulsion, with a few drops of the vitriolic acid. This dose was repeated every third hour, and half a wine-glassful of red port every hour, and as much good broth and milk-porridge as he chose. The next day he was evidently not worse, and his pulse somewhat less frequent. He was desired to
persist

persist in the use of the same medicine, taking it every two hours instead of every third hour. The next day his skin was in a manner cool; he had slept some hours in the night; the pulse was falling back to its natural standard; and in three days more, by continuing the same treatment, he was so well as to leave off medicine.

CASE II.

Two days after this young man's attack, his sister, a delicate woman about the age of 30, was affected with Fever: her head was severely painful, her skin very hot and dry, her pulse more than a hundred in the minute, stomach and bowels natural, and she was excessively restless. She took the medicine which her brother had taken, and drank of wine, though not so often. Next day the pain in her
head

head was exceedingly acute, and very distressing to her; and I expected every hour that delirium would come on. I urged the necessity of giving the medicine every hour and half, and the wine every half hour (half a wine-glassful.) The next day her head was better, and she continued gradually to recover, which she did in a short time. After the amendment began, I had no farther trouble with her.

CASE III.

Elizabeth Fosgate, of Crawley, of the age of 50, was ill with a Fever two or three days before I saw her. Her skin was very hot and dry, her pulse tremulous, and beat more than 100 in the minute, her head very painful, and she was incapable of getting any sleep. I gave her the Cin-
chona

chona in doses of half a drachm every third hour, with a few drops of vitriolic acid in it. The next day I found her much the same, her head very painful, had passed another night in a very restless manner; and the nurse observed to me, that she had often spoken incoherently in the course of the night; her pulse and state of the skin not perceptibly altered, but her eyes assumed a kind of wildness, her face and body wasted very fast, (which is invariably the case in very bad Fevers.) I made her medicine more powerful of the Cinchona, and gave it every two hours; and I ordered her nurse to give her a wine-glassful of port every half hour, and, as she was so debilitated, to wake her for it, if she should fall into a sleep, which I did not expect, and to give her also plenty of good mutton broth. The next morning I learnt that she had

F

gotten

gotten some sleep, and that she had taken her medicines and wine regularly ; her countenance was less dejected, the pulse less frequent, and less tremulous, and her skin not so hot. From this time, this poor woman continued gradually to recover.

CASE IV.

A son of Thomas Smith, of the same village, about ten years of age, came home with a cold fit upon him ; and when questioned whether he could assign any cause for it, it was perceived that he answered insensibly, saying that he had received a blow upon the head, and then again denying it.

When I saw him he was excessively flushed in the face, and his breathing was very quick and interrupted ; his tongue
very

very dry ; his pulfe was exceffively frequent, and hurried to a great degree ; the flexor tendons of the wrift twitched very much ; he fpoke fome words fenfibly, and others not ; his eyes looked very wild, and he was at times very fick. I examined his head very particularly, but could difcover no tumefaction whatever, and preffure did not give him any pain. The ficknefs, I have faid, is at beft an equivocal fymptom ; and, without nice attention, as the ftomach is a vifcus which fympathizes with fo many affections, we are very liable to be ferioufly mifled : in the prefent cafe, it ftruck me, as fimplly fympathifing with the brain. I gave him Cinchona in as large dofes as his ftomach would bear, mixed with the almond emulfion, and directed his mother to give him a large fpoonful of port every half hour. The

next day I saw him, but found him no better, more sick, more feverish if possible, and more insensible. I examined his head again, but without being able to discover any appearance which could justify me in dividing the scalp, in order to examine the cranium : in this apparently hopeless and ambiguous case, I found myself much perplexed ; upon deliberation, I determined to pursue the same treatment, but with greater vigor : being poor, she could not obtain the wine ; I put her in a way to do so, desired that she would give the full quantity day and night with all possible punctuality, and that he should take his medicine also with the utmost regularity, which was now given in considerable doses (half a drachm every second hour :) the next morning I saw him, and found him manifestly better. I enforced the necessity of diligently pursuing

4

pursuing the same treatment; and in three days after this, his understanding was perfectly clear, and his Fever had left him. My little patient was impatient to sit up, which his mother suffered him to do, and he had in the evening a relapse; this was easily conquered; and I took care, after that, to keep him in bed till his strength was recruited.

I leave the medical reader to reflect upon this case: all I can allege is, that if my confidence in the Cinchona and wine had not been very great, I should have pursued very strictly the antiphlogistic or reducing treatment.

CASE V.

J. Townsend, a lad about twelve or fourteen years of age, employed as a groom at the stables of his Grace the

Duke of Bedford, was attacked with Rigor, which recurred frequently for a day or two; his skin was moist, though hot, his pulse very frequent, and his tongue rather white. I gave him pure kali, saturated with lemon-juice, and some decoction of Cinchona: this he repeated every fourth hour; and as his symptoms were in no respect alarming, I ordered him but little wine, not more than a table-spoonful every third hour. I saw the lad regularly once every day, but the case did not go on to my satisfaction; his pulse and tongue were neither of them much altered from their natural state; but the boy could not sleep; he had frequent retchings, and he moreover evidently lost his strength every day. As the medicine which he was taking has a power of quieting, rather than of disturbing the stomach, and

as I could not trace it to any cause except that of the brain, which I had from repeated observation in former cases believed to be frequently the origin of this symptom, occurring either when the attack was very alarming, or when the disease had proceeded to any length; I was determined to change the practice to a more powerful one. Upon examining the body of this lad, I discovered some petechiæ. This was enough of itself to determine my future practice in this case, other symptoms apart: I therefore gave him the Cinchona in doses of two scruples every second or third hour, and a glass of port every hour. He grew better after he had drunk a bottle of the wine, and by perseverance he got perfectly well, though for a long time he was very weak.

A Remark.—When Cinchona is given

F 4 in

in the slight manner in which it was, at the commencement of this case, and for a few days after,---I say, when the symptoms do not only not diminish, but rather increase, the treatment must be changed without hesitation, or the patient will sink; for which reason, however slight a Fever may be in the beginning, care must be taken that it is not neglected; for should it, it may become very formidable.

CASE VI.

Miss —, of Woburn, aged 20, was for some time affected with sickness and pain in her bowels, for which she took an emetic, and some castor oil; these relieved her. After a few days she had a similar attack, which was treated in the same manner. Though relieved as before,
she

she could not get much sleep, to which supervened a slight Rigor, and all the symptoms common to Fever. I treated the case now, as a genuine Fever, with the decoction of Cinchona, and pure ammonia saturated with lemon-juice; she continued very restless, her pulse became very quick, and her countenance had a sadness. I saw her again in the evening, and found the symptoms had evidently increased; and I found also the flexor tendons at the wrist very much disturbed. She had now passed several nights without any rest; and I was apprehensive, from the Subfultus Tendinum, that Delirium would soon follow. I altered my practice, and gave the Cinchona in powder, in doses of two scruples, every third hour, and a glass of port every hour. I saw her the next morning, and was pleased to find that she had slept a little.

From

From this time she continued to recover, under the use of the Cinchona and wine. After a week she grew tired of it, and I gave her half an ounce of the tincture of Cinchona three times a day, till she had regained her strength.

CASE VII.

Mr. — of Woburn, a middle-aged man, and of full habit, had been ill with Fever for three or four days before I saw him. He had taken Pulvis Jacobi, which made him very sick, and he had taken also an aperient. I found his face exceedingly flushed, and apparently swollen, similar to what is seen when a person is much overheated by exercise. His tongue was very white, having upon it an appearance like what takes place in a ptyalism ; his breathing was very laborious

rious, and his pulse from 100 to 112 in the minute, strong and full; he complained of an acute pain in his head, and great restlessness; his skin hot and dry.

In this state, which seemed so much to indicate bleeding, I bled him, taking from him about ten ounces, which, upon standing, seemed to separate into coagulating lymph and serum, principally the former. There were but few of the red particles. I gave him the pure ammonia, saturated with lemon-juice, adding to it the decoction of Cinchona, and a table-spoonful of wine, every second hour. The next morning I found the symptoms not varied in the least; he had not slept in the night more than an hour, and that sleep was greatly disturbed, and did not in the least refresh him. As there continued the same fulness about the head, I directed leeches to be freely applied

plied to the temples, and behind the ears, and the medicine to be repeated; his thirst, which was very urgent, was supplied with barley water. I applied a blister to each temple, and behind each ear; these rendered him more restless, and brought on vast uneasiness about the region of the bladder. His symptoms continued very evidently to grow worse, and the treatment was therefore varied; he had an enema, which, though it produced only two evacuations, reduced him exceedingly. The next morning he took a gentle emetic, which sank him prodigiously. He was at this time sighing incessantly, was so feeble, that when he sank down low in the bed, he had not power to raise himself, and his extremities were very cold: his pulse was exceedingly hurried, and the tendons about the wrist very much disturbed,

In

In this state of things there was confessedly much difficulty in knowing how to act. With a habit so full, with a countenance yet flushed, indicating fulness of the vessels, and a determination to the head, it might be thought a hasty if not an injudicious practice, to give Cinchona and wine : yet if it be considered, that these appearances are often very delusive and fallacious ; that abundance of blood, and strength, are not synonymous, but are really two distinct and sometimes opposite things ; and when it is farther considered, that in the present case bleeding had not relieved, and that I was now driven to such a state, that the case must, humanly speaking, terminate in death, unless some powerful remedy could be devised ; I thought it tolerably clear what measures to take ; namely, if it were possible, to raise the constitution gradually from
this

this state of exhaustion, and extreme debility, to a more secure state. With this view, I gave from two scruples to a drachm of the powder of Cinchona, every second hour, in almond emulsion, and a glass of red wine, (eleven of which fill the common quart bottle) every half hour. A little spirit of cinnamon was added to the draught, in order to prevent its disordering the stomach and bowels. The medicine and wine were both given with the utmost punctuality : and before he had taken a bottle of wine, he was clearly better ; his countenance was more chearful, his pulse more steady, and the tendons more quiet. I desired him to persist boldly in the method ; by which means his symptoms gradually gave way. The wine threw him into a sleep, which it frequently does, and the sleep procured from it in Fevers is always quiet and refreshing,

refreshing, never producing any sensation like ebriety. I shall not comment upon this singular and very alarming case; the event of it will not be soon erased from my mind.

CASE VIII.

Mr. Bunker, of Woburn, a young man between the age of twenty and thirty, was attacked with slight Rigor; and he had all the other symptoms of Fever. I gave him some saline medicines, with the decoction of Cinchona, and ordered him wine in moderate quantity. The next day he was very ill, his pulse 110 in the minute, and very full; he had a severe pain across his forehead, and an acute pain in his side, upon making a full inspiration; his tongue was very dry, and he had great anxiety. The
pain

pain in his side was a symptom which awakened my attention, and I had my doubts as to the propriety of leaving it without bleeding: yet as I had never seen any good from the use of the lancet in bad Fevers, as I am persuaded that I have seen it very injurious, and above all, as I have seen patients do very well without the use of it (in original Fevers) where it seemed to be much required, I forbore to use it, and gave him the Cinchona, as in the other cases, and half a glass of red wine every hour.

The next day he was in no respect better; he had not, from the commencement of his illness, gotten any rest; his tongue continued very dry, his pulse beat 115 in the minute, yet his skin was moist, and his urine turbid; he sighed very often, the pain in his side was not relieved, and he was very unquiet for

want

want of rest, and from the severity of the pain in his head. I desired that the same mode of treatment might be continued, with this difference only, that a glassful of red port should be given every half hour, instead of half a glass, and the Cinchona was taken more frequently, two scruples every second hour.

The next day he was evidently better; one fresh symptom occurred, which was that of profuse perspiration, which is in my opinion no favourable one. I advised him to go on steadily with the wine and the medicine; notwithstanding which, the perspiration continued so profuse, that it was one person's employment to wipe it from his face; and in a minute or two after it was wiped, it formed itself again in drops. This rendered him remarkably weak; yet, upon the whole, he was getting a little ground;

his tongue was moister, his pulse neither so full nor so frequent, and the pain in his side not so severe ; but a new symptom came on, which was that of a very severe pain in his legs. This gave me an idea that the Fever was assuming a new form, something like an acute rheumatism, if not really such. I put him immediately upon madeira, of which I gave him a glass every hour, and a draught every second hour, with six drachms of the compound tincture of Cinchona. Under this treatment his pains abated, and his perspirations soon diminished, and in no long time ceased altogether.

The new form which this very alarming Fever assumed, was, I think, what we call acute Rheumatism, which I am of opinion is not an original, but sympathetic Fever.

When

When I have opportunity, I shall deliver my sentiments on this subject, and also the result of my practice in it. I shall just observe, that I never knew profuse perspiration do any good in this disease (Rheumatic Fever,) and I have seen it protract it to a very great length.

CASE IX.

W. Botsford, of Ridgmont, a pauper, had been ill for several days before I saw him. I found him sitting up, with symptoms of extreme danger; his pulse was so quick, that I could not count it accurately; his countenance was very dejected, his tongue dry, and of a crimson colour, and he had at the same time Subfultus Tendinum to a great degree. I gave him immediately the Cinchona, as in the former cases, conjoining with it

the vitriolic * acid ; and I ordered him plenty of red port. The medicine unfortunately ran off by the bowels, and it was two days before I could bring the bowels into a state to bear the medicine. I had here lost time, as I feared, irreparably. As the poor man was very indigent, he could not procure half the quantity of wine that the case required, and which, if he could have gotten it, would probably have prevented the medicine from producing the effect which it did. His senses grew daily and hourly more imperfect, his tongue became black, and there was no secretion within his mouth ; at length he fell into a comatose state, and died.

* I think I remarked that the vitriolic acid has a tendency to run off by the bowels ; for which reason I seldom give it. I thought it capable of increasing the tonic powers of the Cinchona ; with this view I gave it, and not from any notion of its antiseptic property, as it is called. There seems a disposition in the very disease itself to produce diarrhoea.

Remarks on the aforementioned case.—Had this poor man been visited earlier, he would, in all probability, have recovered; and late as he was visited, if a sufficient quantity of wine could have been obtained, I think it more than likely that he would have gotten well. Truly pitiable is the condition of the poor in sickness.

CASE X.

Miss ———, of Battlesden, about 18 years of age, and of a delicate constitution, had been ill with Fever for two days before I saw her. I found her pulse at 96 in the minute, her tongue furred, and a little dry, her skin hot, and she had been very restless from the moment of the attack, and unable to get any sleep. She had moreover a slight cough, with pain in her side; but this was inconsi-

derable. I gave her immediately the peruvian decoction, with saturated ammonia, as mentioned in former cases. The next day she was much the same, and still unable to sleep. I changed her medicine for the Cinchona in powder, with the almond emulsion, and some vitriolic acid. This ran off by the bowels, owing either to the vitriolic acid probably, or to the port, which was tart; but by giving her some tincture of cinnamon and catechu, her bowels were quieted. Her friends got for her some sound port, of which she took a wine-glassful every hour, and she took the decoction of Cinchona, with a little of Hoffmann's anodyne liquor. The next day she was evidently better; she had slept a little, and her pulse was not so frequent; she was nevertheless exceedingly weak, and the pain in her side and cough were troublesome.

some

some to her. I gave her a mucilaginous linctus for her cough, with a little syrup of the white poppy in it, and I ordered a burgundy pitch plaster to her side.

As the wine agreed well with her, and as her symptoms grew less severe every day, I had no occasion to change my practice, which I should have done either to the Cinchona without the vitriol, or else to the tincture of it. My patient continued weak for some little time, fainting upon sitting up; since which I advised them to dress her, and to let her lie upon another bed. This careful manner of proceeding is very necessary with convalescents.

I have been silent as to the appearances of the urine in Fever; and I have been so for this reason, that I have seen persons die where it deposited what is called a lateritious sediment. I have
seen

seen them also recover where it has been of a deep colour. The appearances of the urine, considered abstractedly, throw little or no light on Fever, but must, like all the other symptoms, be considered in the whole; yet it may be said, the nearer the urine in Fever approaches to what is called a healthy state, the more promising, and *vice versa*.

It will be allowed, I trust, by every candid person, that I have adduced some cases, and very many more might be adduced, which have done well under the use of the Cinchona and wine, yet were equally threatening with those which did ill under the contrary treatment. It is matter of deep concern to me, that I did not know the practice before, as I am persuaded it would have prolonged some lives which
would

would have been an ornament to society.

I have extended the trial of Cinchona and wine to Cynanche Tonfillaritis in several instances, and very lately to a case of Puerperal Fever, and in both with advantage. In the former it is vastly superiour to the reducing treatment, removing the disease in a much less time.

I have been silent as to the ulcerous fore throat sometimes occurring in Fever; and for this reason I have been so, because it in no respect alters the treatment which should be pursued in Fever. The best topical application that I have yet used, is red port, or the gargarism recommended in aphthæ. I shall just observe, that when Fever is combined with this local affection, it is, as far as my experience goes, less dangerous

gerous than when it is not so circumstanced.

The Cases brought forward have exceeded the limits which I had prescribed to myself ; yet as practice is incomparably more important than speculation, I trust it will vindicate me.

I have hope that what I have written, as it has been a beneficial practice with me, may for the same reason be so with others ; if it should, I shall be most amply rewarded.

THE END.

SUPPLEMENT.

THE foregoing observations were sent for publication at the beginning of August ; since which several cases of Fever have fallen under my notice, and some with very alarming symptoms. In all of them (the two following excepted) I gave the Cinchona with red port, and with its former good effect. Believing that tonics were the medicines chiefly, if not wholly, to be relied on in Fevers threatening danger, I was inclined to try what other medicines of this class were capable of. With this view I gave to two patients, with Scarlet Fever, each under twelve years, twenty-five drops of the Tinct. Ferri Muriat. in simple mint-water every third hour, and gave Madeira (from a pint to a pint and a half in 24 hours) instead of port. In both cases, although the tongue was black and dry,

H

and

and the pulse at 130 in the minute, yet they recovered; and the advantage of the treatment was to me very obvious, before twelve hours had elapsed.

The Madeira was given mixed with a little thick gruel.

Whether the wine and the medicine act simply as powerful tonics, or as a tonic combined with a stimulus, may be thought worthy of inquiry. I am myself of opinion, from the increased fulness in the pulse, after their exhibition, that they act in the latter way; and it appears to me not at all improbable, that this new excitement may have some considerable share in destroying the morbid one, or Fever. Be this as it may, the efficacy of the practice is enough to make it a matter of vast moment with me in a disease hitherto so frequently fatal.